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# Inventory
# for
# Manuscript Collection
# MS-433

## The Schooner *T. K. Bentley* Records Collection

**Inclusive dates: 1922-1938**
**Bulk dates: 1923-27**

**by**
**Anastasia S. Weigle**
Edited by Nathan R. Lipfert

**April 2009**

**Shelf feet: .5**
**Number of boxes: 1**

Accession # 2006.087.01

## A PART OF THE CAPTAIN W. J. LEWIS PARKER BEQUEST

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## ABSTRACT

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***T. K. Bentley* (Three-mast schooner)**

**Records Collection, 1922-1938** (Bulk 1923-27)

1 box (.5 shelf feet)

Coasting schooner, British North American (Canadian) flag, built in Advocate Harbor, Nova Scotia, in 1920, by Thomas K. Bentley.

Records of one of the largest Nova Scotian tern schooners, including: correspondence of owners, captains, and ship brokers; accounts, charter parties, bills of lading, crew wage accounts, a statement of discharged seamen, and an official log-book form, partly filled out. Records primarily document the lumber trade, with voyages between ports of the Maritime Provinces and east coast U.S. ports.

Bequeathed by Capt. William J. L. Parker in 2006.

MS-433, Accession #2006.087.01

Finding aid in repository; folder level control.

**Added entries—persons:**

Bentley, Thomas Keillor, *Captain*
Taylor, John, *Captain*
Berry, G. Leonard, *Captain*
Knowlton, A., *Captain*

**Added entries—corporate bodies (including vessels)**

*T. K. Bentley* (Three-mast schooner)

**Added entries—key terms:**

Freight and freightage
Schooners
Ship—Owners
Shipping
Ship Captains
Ship brokers
Ships

## ACQUISITION

The Schooner T. K. Bentley Records Collection was bequeathed to Maine Maritime Museum from the estate of Capt. William J. L. Parker in November and December 2006.

## PROVENANCE

There is no documentation in Capt. Parker's papers that would indicate how or where he may have acquired these papers. He may have gotten them from Capt. John J. Taylor, who he knew, or he may have had an opportunity to pick them up from a Bentley descendent. He may have acquired the collection at various times and from different sources. Capt. Parker was particularly interested in this vessel because he made two summer trips in her (as a passenger) when he was a young man, in 1936 and 1937 – see PC-202 Box 17, and PC-203 Box 7.

## RESTRICTIONS

There are no restrictions on the study or use of these materials.

## PHYSICAL CONDITION

There is a great deal of surface dirt on the invoices. The letters dating late 1920s and 1930s are quite brittle. These were placed in Mylar sleeves. Overall the collection is in fair condition and should be handled carefully and with staff assistance.

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## HISTORICAL NOTES

**The British (Canadian) Tern Schooner *T. K. Bentley***

At 509 gross tons and 160 feet, the *T. K. Bentley* was one of the largest Nova Scotia-built tern schooners. A single-decked vessel built of pine, birch, and spruce (these materials were commonly used in the Maritimes), she was constructed in Advocate Harbor N.S. in 1920, by Capt. Thomas Keillor Bentley for his ownership. Her home port was Parrsboro, and her owners for the first part of her career were T. K. Bentley or Bentley & Pugsley. Around 1936 her owner is given as long-time captain John J. Taylor, and that is who was owner and master when Lew Parker made his trip in her in 1936 and 1937.

The *Bentley* was used in the lumber trade from Canadian to U.S. ports through her entire career. In *The Last Sail Down East* by Giles M. S. Tod, 1965, there is documentation of a series of collisions (including one with the battleship *North Dakota*) and other mishaps through her career, but the schooner continued active until being laid

up in Parrsboro around 1939. A photograph in PC-202 shows her loaded with piling and looking very sad in 1940, but Tod says her last voyage was never completed because of her poor condition, and she was eventually returned to the Parrsboro mud flats. Although sold to a Mr. Schultz of New York, the *Bentley* stayed there in Parrsboro until there was nothing left of her.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTES

This collection documents the voyages of the British schooner *T. K. Bentley* from 1922 to 1925 under the command of Captain G. Leonard Berry, from 1925 to 1927 under the command of ship owner and master Capt Thomas Keillor Bentley, 1926 under the command of Capt. A. Knowlton and 1936 to1938 under the command of Capt. John J. Taylor. This is not a complete collection - there are many gaps.

Records of one of the largest Nova Scotian tern schooners, including: correspondence of owners, captains, and ship brokers; accounts, charter parties, bills of lading, crew wage accounts, a statement of discharged seamen, and an official log-book form, partly filled out.

Documents in this collection are correspondence (owners, captains, and ship brokers), invoices of supplies and materials, an account summary, charter parties, bills of lading, crew wage accounts, a statement of discharged seamen and an official log-book from the 1926 Maitland N.S. to New York voyage of the *T. K. Bentley* under the command of Capt. A. Knowlton. The "log book" is an official form that does not contain a daily record of events, but primarily provides a format for recording information on crew members.

Much of the freight business was done between Nova Scotia and New York. The charter parties and bills of lading indicate cargoes of coal from the U.S. to Canada, and cargoes of lumber, pulp wood, wood pulp, knees, laths, pilings and poles from Canada to the U.S.

## ORGANIZATION OF SERIES

### MS-433 SCHOONER *T. K. BENTLEY* RECORDS COLLECTION

**Series I. Correspondence**
**Series II. Accounts**
**Series III. Log-Book**

## FINDING AIDS

## MS-433 SCHOONER *T. K. BENTLEY* RECORDS COLLECTION

| BOX | FOLDER | |
|---|---|---|
| | | ***Series I. Correspondence*** |
| 1 | 1 | J. T. Knight & Co. 1923, 1927 |
| | 2 | Capt. A. Knowlton, 1927 |
| | | Capt. Thomas K. Bentley |
| | 3 | Business 1927 |
| | 4 | Personal 1927 |
| | 5 | Capt. John J. Taylor 1936-37 |
| | | ***Series II. Accounts*** |
| | 6 | Repairs & Maintenance, n.d., 1927 |
| | 7 | Summaries, 1937 |
| | | General |
| | 8 | New York, Dec. 1922 |
| | 9 | Portland, Me., Jan. 1923 |
| | 10 | St. John, NB, Jan. 1923 |
| | 11 | Baltimore, Apr. 1923 |
| | 12 | New York, Feb. 1924 |
| | 13 | St. John, NB, Apr. 1924 / St. George NB, June 1924 |
| | 14 | New York, July & Sept. 1924 |
| | 15 | Perth Amboy, NJ, Aug. 1924 |
| | 16 | St. John, NB, Aug. & Oct. 1924 |
| | 17 | New York, Dec. 1924, early Jan. 1925 |
| | 18 | Norwalk, CT, Jan. 1925 |
| | 19 | St John, NB, Jan. 1925 |
| | 20 | Norwalk, CT, Feb. 1925 |
| | 21 | New York, Feb. 1925 |
| | 22 | St. John, NB and St. George, NB, Mar. 1925 |
| | 23 | Norwalk, CT, Apr. 1925 |
| | 24 | St. George, NB, Apr. 1925 |
| | 25 | Bridgeport, CT, May 1925 |
| | 26 | New York, Jun.-July 1925 |
| | 27 | St. John, NB, Sept.-Oct. 1925 |
| | 28 | Perth Amboy, Oct.-Nov. 1925 |
| | 29 | St. George, NB, Nov. 1925 / Halifax, NS, Dec. 1925 |
| | 30 | Boston, Apr.-May 1927 |
| | 31 | New York, Jun.-July 1927 |
| | 32 | St. John, NB, Jul.-Aug. 1927 |
| | 33 | Kentville, NS, Aug. 1927 |
| | 34 | Parrsboro, NS, Feb. and Apr. 1938 |
| | 35 | New York & Port Reading, NJ, May 1938 |
| | 36 | Annapolis, NS, June 1938 |

| BOX | FOLDER | |
|---|---|---|
| | | ***Series II. Accounts*** *(continued)* |
| 1 | 37 | No dates or Unclear |
| | 38 | Charter parties, 1926-27 |
| | 39 | Freight & cargoes, 1925-27 |
| | | Crew |
| | 40 | Wages 1923-27 |
| | 41 | List, 1925 |
| | | ***Series III. Log-book*** |
| | 42 | Log Book, Capt. A. Knowlton, Sept. 1926 |